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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report brings the Economic and Social Council up to date on actions undertaken by the regional commissions during the period under review with respect to the guidance given in annex III of Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998. Among the main issues it brings to the attention of the Council is a regional perspective on the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, which is in response to Council decision 2005/206 of 4 February 2005. The report also provides a review of the regional dimension of global issues and the global dimension of regional issues as contained in the report of the Executive Secretaries in section II, which is submitted to the Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV). Efforts for effective linkages among the regional commissions and other partners at the global, interregional and regional levels are explored in section IV of the report.

The resolutions and decisions adopted by the regional commissions during the period under review that require action by the Council or are brought to its attention are contained in the addendum to the present report (E/2005/15/Add.1).

The summaries of the economic surveys of the five regions are provided to the Council for its consideration (see E/2005/16-20). The annual reports of the regional commissions are made available as background information as they address matters relevant to the issues covered in the present report and its addendum. They are issued as supplements to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	*Pag*
I.	Introduction	1	
II.	Report of the Executive Secretaries	2–14	
III.	Significant substantive issues before the commissions at their sessions in 2005 or with which the commissions are seized	15–35	
IV.	Interregional cooperation — achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: a regional perspective	36–59	13
V.	Effective linkages among the regional commissions and between the commissions and other partners	60–75	19
	A. Mainstreaming the activities of the regional commissions at the global level	60–63	19
	B. Partnership at the regional level	64–67	20
	1. Partnership within the United Nations system: regional coordination meetings	65–66	20
	2. Partnership with regional organizations	67	21
	C. Cooperation among the regional commissions	68–75	22

I. Introduction

1. Since the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, the Secretary-General, through his reports on regional cooperation, has attempted to engage the Council in a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries on the progress achieved towards linking the activities and contributions of the commissions more effectively with the overall activities of the Organization in the economic and social sectors, as well as to the policy work of the Council. Among the issues he has raised is the lead role of the commissions as focal points in their respective regions for monitoring and assessing progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets of global conferences, as well as of the Millennium Development Goals, bearing in mind regional conditions and priorities (see E/2004/15 and E/2004/71). In the light of the need to provide coherent support by the United Nations system at the regional level to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other international goals, the Secretary-General points to the need for further measures to strengthen coordination of activities of the United Nations system at the regional level. The regional coordination meetings, mandated by Economic and Social Council, would enhance such measures. His recent reports also refer to the necessity of effective cooperation between the regional commissions, global departments and the United Nations funds and programmes, especially United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and between the commissions and partner regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations. The present report explores these issues further.

II. Report of the Executive Secretaries

2. The meetings of the Executive Secretaries[1] of the regional commissions focused on progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; as well as the reform initiatives of the Secretary-General for mainstreaming the regional dimension in the overall work of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. In the view of the Executive Secretaries, the two issues are interlinked. Progress towards the achievement of the international development agenda requires concerted and coherent support by the United Nations and the United Nations system at the international, regional and country levels.

3. The linkages between development work at the regional and global levels, although increasingly recognized in the mandates provided to the regional commissions by the global conferences, have not been adequately reflected in the dialogue between the Executive Secretaries and Economic and Social Council in the past. The Executive Secretaries, therefore, expressed appreciation of the recent decision by the Council in early 2005, to hold its dialogue with them immediately after the High-level Segment. They view this as a positive step towards the Council's review of the regional dimensions of global issues, including coherent policies to address the varying degrees of achievements of the Millennium Development Goals at the regional and subregional levels.

4. The Executive Secretaries agreed that international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are increasingly shaping the development agenda of the regions despite the wide diversity of achievements between the regions and within the regions. The regional commissions have played

an important role in raising awareness about the Millennium Development Goals and the need for different sets of consistent policies which should be developed at the country, regional and international levels. The regional reports prepared in cooperation with United Nations and other regional partners[2] bring out both the trends and heterogeneity within the regions, analyse the underlying causes influencing the subregional divergences, identify good practices and provide policy perspectives and recommendations that can have a bearing for strengthening implementation efforts through regional and international cooperation. The perspectives provided by these reports indicate that achieving the Millennium Development Goals requires addressing issues relating to sharp heterogeneity within the ESCAP, ECA and ECE regions; armed conflict and uneven economic growth in the ESCWA region and the highest income inequality and growth volatility in the ECLAC region (see sects. IV and V.B.1).

5. The regional dimension of the Millennium Development Goals includes regional policies such as regional trade, infrastructure and legal instruments. The regional level offers an opportunity to exchange national experiences on the necessary interrelated policy issues which are of crucial importance for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Regional processes can bridge the gap between global perspectives and country specific concerns. While country-level ownership of the Millennium Development Goals is key, regional approaches can reinforce good practices through exchange of experiences in the forums provided by the regional commissions for all member countries and partner multilateral and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector. Regional monitoring complements national monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and brings out regional trends and comparative approaches.

6. In this connection, the Executive Secretaries agreed that sustained economic growth and institutional changes as well as targeted employment and social policies are necessary. In particular, regional policies should focus on the interlinkages between growth, equity and poverty reduction; the conditions for a sustained process of poverty reduction; the links between economic policies and sustainable development; the combination of broad-based human capital formation with social protection and specific anti-poverty programmes; adherence to the principles of governance and accountability; and regional integration policies for reducing vulnerability of various external shocks, such as financial crises and natural or man-made disasters. While these key issues are not exhaustive, they are relevant to all countries. However, they must be addressed in different ways, depending on the initial conditions of development and the institutional history of countries, and within their subregional and regional context.

7. The Executive Secretaries also stressed that although national policies are crucial for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in a globalized world and in a situation of growing interdependencies, a supportive international climate is indispensable. International commitments on aid, debt and trade issues for developing countries are essential to implement for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

8. The Executive Secretaries also exchanged views on the activities undertaken by the commissions concerning regional follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development; the preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in follow-up to the World Summit on

Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002; and preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis in 2005. With respect to follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the activities of the regional commissions focused on analytical work for promoting policy dialogue, capacity-building, including sharing of best practices. Follow-up actions, as articulated in the Monterrey Consensus, have further strengthened partnerships between the regional commissions, regional development banks, and other financial institutions that were forged in the preparatory process for the Monterrey conference.

9. The regional commissions are promoting an integrated approach in their activities, especially taking into account the financial requirements for the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, the activities of the regional commissions, in areas of trade and trade facilitation, continue to be an important aspect of their follow-up to the financing for development process, many of which involved providing support to their member States for their effective integration into the global trading system. Together with other partners, including UNCTAD, they continue to assist member States at the regional level in formulating trade policies and strategies that will ensure more equitable results of globalization and liberalization. In this connection, the Executive Secretaries noted that the regional commissions will prepare a joint report at the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development (27-28 June 2005), which will focus on the obstacles to the achievement of the Monterrey Consensus and on the further measures required for its implementation from a regional perspective.

10. With respect to mainstreaming the regional dimension in the work of the United Nations and enhancing the coherence of its activities in the economic and social sectors, the Executive Secretaries expressed satisfaction with the measure taken so far by the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. In addition to ongoing cooperation, better linkages — particularly between activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD and the regional commissions — were established in the course of the preparation of the proposed programme budget 2006-2007, under the thematic clusters established for collective review of the programme submissions in relation to each of the clusters. The three entities also jointly produced the global report, *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2005*.

11. Although the Secretary-General's report entitled "Review of technical cooperation in the United Nations" (A/58/382) found relatively little overlap among the concerned entities in the provision of technical cooperation, the Deputy Secretary-General requested the Executive Heads of UNDP, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional commissions to work together through Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and in coordination with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to achieve further coherence among these activities and more effective use of available resources at the regional level. Strengthened collaboration between the regional commissions and funds and programmes on the provision of technical cooperation has also been called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. In the light of the recent trend of decentralization of programmes and activities to the regional level by organizations of the United Nations system, including UNDP, the Executive Secretaries are currently exploring, with the executive heads of

Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP, ways for improving cooperation and building on successful experiences to reinforce synergies across the work of the Organization at the interregional, regional and country levels. In this connection, the Executive Secretaries reviewed the results thus far achieved by the regional coordination meetings established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/46, annex III, and agreed that they need to be made more effective. The participation of regional directors in these meetings would facilitate decisions on policy and programme issues (see sect. IV.B.I).

12. As stated in Council resolution 1998/46, annex III, the regional commissions are part of the institutional landscape of their regions. Owing to the mandates given to them by the global conferences, they have further strengthened their partnership with other relevant regional organizations and integration groupings as well as civil society institutions. Cooperation with those partners forms a major plank of the commissions' response to promoting regional cooperation and regional public goods. The Secretary-General has noted in his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005) that threats to peace and security in a globalized world not only include international war and conflict, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, but also poverty, deadly infectious disease and environmental degradation. The Executive Secretaries fully support his assessment and follow-up action. These threats must be addressed by the international community at the global and regional levels in an integrated and preventative manner. The approach taken by the regional commissions has been based on the view that progressive development is in itself conducive to peace while poverty and inequality tend to generate friction and conflict.

13. The recognition of economic, social and environmental dimensions of security has become a basis for long-term cooperation as well as for new areas of cooperation between the regional commissions and other regional organizations. As experienced with tsunami and earlier with man-made catastrophes such as Bhopal, such disasters can account for a larger number of deaths than deaths from "hard threats". Similarly, massive deaths resulting from poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic are destabilizing and require concerted and coordinated response through regional cooperation. The regional commissions and their partner regional organizations have a strategic role to play in the coordination of development policies and strategies for addressing the "soft threats" to security in the respective regions.

14. The Executive Secretaries further explored interregional and horizontal cooperation between the commissions in given areas. In this connection, the Executive Secretaries agreed to convene in July 2005 in Beirut, at the invitation of the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, to address issues raised in the Secretary-General's report (A/59/2005), including policy issues for greater coherence and harmony between bilateral, regional and global agreements, especially in areas relating to trade and development. Building on the experiences gained through their joint meetings, they were of the view that cooperation among the commissions should continue to be strengthened through knowledge sharing and networking. They took stock of ongoing cooperative efforts in the various areas and expressed satisfaction with the results achieved so far, particularly with the recent meetings on transport, programme planning, gender equality, and information and communication technologies (see sect. V.C).

III. Significant substantive issues before the commissions at their sessions in 2005 or with which the commissions are seized

15. The regional commissions' activities, as well as their recent sessions, have focused on a number of substantive issues relevant to the countries of the respective regions at the core of which are the goals of the international global conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals. Policies for regional integration and global partnership received special attention.

Economic Commission for Europe

16. The sixtieth session of ECE (22-25 February 2005, Geneva) was seized with financing for development issues in Europe. According to the report prepared by ECE for the session, economic policy and systemic issues relating to financing for development are relevant to many of the emerging market economies of South-East Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Two round tables were organized around: (a) the exchange of experiences with domestic policies that have successfully increased financial resources for development in Europe; and (b) the role of regional cooperation in financing for development in the region. With respect to successful domestic policies, ECE noted at the session that liberalizing domestic prices and markets as well as foreign trade is important so as to avoid distortions in the allocation of financial resources. Investment in human capital is equally important to create a basis for economic diversification and to foster evolution towards knowledge-based economies. Foreign direct investment (FDI), it was noted, is a particularly beneficial source of financing. With increasing competition for FDIs, it is important to develop an attractive package to match the needs of investors. Domestic policies are also key for fostering interlinkages between foreign and domestic fronts. Resource-rich economies can use commodity stabilization funds to support economic diversity. It was also noted that recently some post-transition economy countries have emerged as donors of official development assistance (ODA) and that they have targeted their aid towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in countries with economies in transition (South-East Europe and Central Asia) and developing countries.

17. With regard to the role of regional cooperation, at its session ECE was of the view that such initiatives can play an important role in improving the business climate and in making countries attractive for investors. Cooperation at the regional level can take different yet complementary forms such as: free trade agreements; harmonization of legislation and standards; coordination of customs procedures; the development of regional infrastructure; the creation of common financial institutions and markets; and sharing of knowledge and experiences. Regional cooperation is an important strategy to mobilize resources for development. Regional institutions, including regional economic agreements, development banks and subregional groupings can play an important catalytic role in the integration process. Nonetheless, for regional cooperation to be successful, participating countries should credibly and unambiguously commit to it. Moreover, while the contributions of regional initiatives to economic development can be significant, member countries should remain the owners of the development and reform agenda. In fostering regional initiatives, regional and intergovernmental organizations ought to achieve a good division of labour and knowledge sharing.

18. The Commission also considered sustainable development in Europe and examined major policy options for water, sanitation and human settlements, taking into account the outcome of the regional implementation meeting in January 2004 and the challenges identified by the parties to the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and by the Committee on Human Settlements. The commission stressed that despite progress achieved, there was a need for action-oriented local and national measures as well as regional cooperation to speed up efforts to meet the internationally agreed development goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation commitments, particularly in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucuses and Central Asia and some south-east European countries, which include five of the poorest countries in the world. The Commission also reviewed the regional dimension of Millennium Development Goals as well as ECE's activities in support of their achievement.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

19. The theme of ESCAP's sixty-first session (12-18 May 2005, Bangkok) was on implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency. In the context of the overall challenges involved in mobilizing adequate financing for the development of the countries of the region, a ministerial round table considered the various issues under the Monterrey Consensus. In line with the emphasis provided by the Monterrey Consensus, achieving coherence and consistency between policies is a central focus of the study. The importance of ODA, particularly for the most disadvantaged countries, for tackling the Millennium Development Goals, including the many dimensions of poverty, was emphasized. In addition to the need to increase the level of ODA substantially, the report draws further attention to the urgent need for greater coherence and consistency between aid and trade policies of developed countries so as to increase the effectiveness of the aid that they provide. Systemic weaknesses, such as those which created the Asian financial crisis, and initiatives taken in the region to correct them, such as the Chiang Mai Initiative, also received special focus. The role of regional integration in promoting the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus including the role of ESCAP in implementing the Consensus was emphasized. The study made two proposals as the way forward in implementing the Consensus in Asia and the Pacific region. First, is the possibility of setting up an Asian Investment Bank to meet the region's infrastructure needs in the light of the slowdown in infrastructure development in the region. ESCAP would prepare a feasibility study, similar to the mandate it was given in 1966 for the establishment of the Asian Development Bank. Second, ESCAP could pursue a two-track strategy for furthering the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Under the first track, ESCAP would strengthen its technical assistance programme, especially in finance trade and resource mobilization. It would also focus on capacity-building of member countries and provide a forum for policy exchange. The second track would be for ESCAP to bring together various subregional initiatives so as to exploit synergies between these initiatives and to ensure consistency with the global mandates.

20. On the economic and social situation in the region and related policy issues, although the region achieved the highest rate of growth in the world and is becoming an engine of world growth with China and India outpacing the United States and the European Union, there still remain key Millennium Development Goal challenges to be addressed, particularly by the off-track countries which

include the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and island developing countries. The ESCAP region has the largest number of absolute poor (two thirds of the world's poor) and several countries have increasing poverty levels. The sharp increase in youth unemployment (38 million young people — half of the world's jobless youth) and the implications of the tsunami disaster represent new development challenges for the region. The region is also ageng at a faster rate, and in the next 50 years will be home to over 1.2 billion people aged 60 years and older (63 per cent of the world total). Women account for the majority of the older population and most of them are poor. Pensions are mostly unsustainable and demands are rising for health-care services for the elderly. As ESCAP's report indicates, there is a need for pro-poor growth strategies and regional cooperation.

21. The serious socio-economic impact of the recent tsunami disaster on many countries in Asia, especially Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives was considered in depth. In addition to the economic and social losses incurred, the report before the session also reviewed national and regional experiences in disaster management and preparedness and examined emerging issues in regional cooperation in natural disaster reduction. The High-Level Panel organized at the session drew attention to the importance of regional cooperation in disaster reduction, especially in early warning systems and the development of regional strategies to deal with disaster risk management.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

22. In response to the San Juan resolution of its thirtieth session, held in 2004,[3] ECLAC undertook more in-depth analyses of the major issues underlined in the resolution, including countercyclical macroeconomic management, social cohesion and sustainable development issues. The Latin America and the Caribbean region has the worst income distribution in the world, and this has been further exacerbated in some member countries. Since this is a serious obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, ECLAC has been focusing its work on the urgent need to develop distributive policies, including through the provision of stronger social safety nets and a more inclusive production model. The regional review that ECLAC has prepared in cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system on meeting the Millennium Development Goals, proposes a Latin American and Caribbean vision of development. Its threefold approach focuses on:

(a) Inequality, which is the main obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the region. Economic growth alone would not address the basic needs of the entire population, particularly the most disadvantaged, nor would it ensure achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in every country within a reasonable time frame;

(b) Synergies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The report identified those areas of public policy intervention where their impact in other areas is greatest;

(c) Financing needs for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, it explored the various components of Goal 8, namely, international assistance, indebtedness and international trade and financing from the perspective of middle-income countries.

23. ECLAC has continued to carry out analytical and technical cooperation work regarding factors that promote growth and reduce volatility, i.e., the pronounced volatility of the business cycles of its member countries which has undermined their economies' ability to achieve sustained growth. The procyclical profile of the macroeconomic policies, particularly the fiscal and monetary policies were at the centre of debate at many seminars and meetings organized by ECLAC, such as the 17th Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy, co-sponsored by the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Inter-American Development Bank, with additional support from the German cooperation agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)) and the Finance Ministry of Chile.[4]

24. ECLAC has also been seized with the new challenges to regional integration and trade. The wave of regionalism experienced by the region during the 1990s, sparked intraregional trade for some time, stimulating in this way gross domestic product (GDP) growth. However, in recent years, bilateral North-South trade agreements have proliferated. While their benefits in terms of access are evident, they also generate administrative costs and include non-trade issues whose benefits are not so clear. ECLAC has been working with member countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to adequately manage free trade agreements.[5]

25. Social cohesion has been another area of focus for ECLAC, particularly the formulation of public policy proposals to address the structural heterogeneity prevailing in the region. The challenge is to develop institutions and public policies in the fields of employment, education and training that can enhance employment opportunities while ensuring adequate social protection. Related activities in this area include the flagship report entitled "Social Panorama of Latin America 2004" and the seminar organized in November 2004 in cooperation with the European Commission and the Government of Mexico entitled "Economic Integration and Social Cohesion: Lessons learned and perspectives". ECLAC and the European Commission will carry out a series of related regional workshops during 2005-2006, and social cohesion will also be the theme for discussion at the Commission's thirty-first session in Uruguay in 2006.

26. Special attention is being given to sustainable development as a way for the region to capitalize on its unique natural resource endowment. Its current work has been focusing on integrating the economic and environmental agendas, particularly in the design of economic instruments appropriate for sustainable development, and the analysis of the sustainability of the productive development of energy and other natural resources.

Economic Commission for Africa

27. The theme of the thirty-eighth session of ECA (11-15 May 2005, Abuja) was "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa". In recent years, African countries have undertaken a very ambitious agenda of reforms aimed at improving the economic, political and social conditions in the region. However, a majority of countries in Africa, and more specifically, sub-Saharan Africa, continue to face serious challenges and are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. At the thirty-fifth session in 2002, member States agreed that the poverty reduction strategies (PRSs) would be the main instrument for incorporating continent-wide priorities into national programmes and accelerating progress

towards the Millennium Development Goals. Regional experience with PRSs shows that increased country ownership and participation have had a gradual and positive impact on the formulation of national development plans. However, according to ECA, the PRSs have not been underpinned by comprehensive growth strategies and have not had enough focus on the Millennium Development Goals. The second generation of PRSs will need to address structural constraints to poverty reduction founded on innovative strategies for wealth creation. The recent session of the Commission explored ways of strengthening within the PRSs, growth, employment creation and poverty reduction. It also addressed the importance of investing in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors and mainstreaming trade in the national strategies in order to stimulate economic growth and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

28. Improving Africa's potential to meet the Millennium Development Goals will also require new and energized relations between Africa and its partners based on trust and a shared responsibility for development effectiveness. Africa's development partners would need to meet their commitments to significantly increase aid flows in a predictable and coherent manner. Since operationalizing mutual accountability and monitoring commitments are essential, the recent session of the Commission paid special attention to the first joint Mutual Review Report prepared by ECA and OECD. The report highlighted several key issues, including benchmarks for measuring progress towards mutually agreed commitments; the challenges of improving aid effectiveness; and promoting policy coherence.

29. Since its thirty-seventh session, in 2004, which focused on financing for development in Africa, ECA has undertaken a number of follow-up activities. In the fourth "Big Round Table" it organized in Addis Ababa in October 2004, the role of the State in addressing the major constraints to private investment was considered and several policy measures were proposed relating to the domestic financial sector, infrastructure and regional integration, the role of small and medium enterprises, private-public sector partnerships and the creation of an investment climate facility that is closely aligned to and supported by the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). In its economic report on Africa, 2005, entitled, "Meeting the challenges of unemployment and poverty in Africa", ECA presented policy recommendations for increasing investment that will lead to employment creation, especially in the private sector, and to poverty reduction. The report underscores the need for further and deeper reforms in many areas such as education and training policies and trade; and for creating an enabling business environment that is attractive to domestic and foreign investment.

30. In support of NEPAD's trade objectives, ECA conducted four subregional expert group meetings to enhance negotiation capacity of member States in CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community in Central Africa) (December 2004), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (March 2005), Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (March 2005) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (April 2005). For the promotion of intra-African trade, it organized an expert group meeting in March 2005 to discuss constraints on intraregional trade and measures for addressing them.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

31. ESCWA continues to focus on the development of a region that is under crisis conditions. At its twenty-third session (9-12 May 2005, Damascus) it deliberated on the effects of war and instability on regional cooperation and integration and on the development process in the ESCWA region; achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and on related social policies in the region. The intermittent wars and potential risks have impacted the development process of Western Asia more than any other part of the world. According to ESCWA, had the region not been at war in 1990-1991, it would have been by year 2002 at least $600 billion richer; had the real risk or perception of risk not existed, the ESCWA region poverty rates could have been halved by 2015.

32. Yet the 2004 Economic and Social Survey argues that while these issues are a "major force", they are not a "force majeure" and that a balanced development can be sparked by an adequate mixture of policies. Declining investment rates represent the principal cause behind poor economic performance as they were on average 4 per cent below the investment rates for the developing world. While reviving the region's economy requires first and foremost an end to military and political conflicts, efficient institutions and improved cooperation between Governments, the private sector, investment institutions and donor organizations need to be developed. Moreover, policies should include measures for labour intensive growth, as over the next 10 years the region will require 35 million jobs to reduce unemployment rates. They should also focus on the need for improved income distribution and creation of new assets, adjustment of the education system to labour market needs and on financial reforms.

33. In the area of social policies, ESCWA pursued the second phase of a major project "Towards integrated social development policies in the ESCWA region". The project's long-term goal is to enable member countries to (a) adopt an integrated perspective and coherent policies with respect to education, health, employment, social protection, etc.; and (b) monitor and assess the planning and implementation processes of the various social policies as well as existing coordination among the main stakeholders, including relevant ministries and other national authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and specialized research centres.

34. Over the period 2003-2005, several meetings and workshops were held, mainly to provide guidance and input to the regional report on social policies. Through the process, ESCWA also produced a series of national reports on social policies, which provide necessary information and indicators on the status and impact of social policies on major sectors such as health and education, as well as on poverty reduction, the family and vulnerable groups and social safety nets in the countries of the region. Other studies undertaken focused on social thematic issues, including on the linkage between democracy and development in the Arab region.

35. The Commission was also brought up to date on the mechanisms for integrating the various systems of transport in the region, facilitated by ESCWA in support of regional integration. The Agreement on cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the Arab Mashreq was submitted for adoption at the session. It is third after the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq (May 2001) and the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq (April 2003), all of which emanated from the Declaration on the adoption and development of the integrated system in the Arab Mashreq (May 1999).

IV. Interregional cooperation — achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: a regional perspective

36. Implementation of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit for Sustainable Development, are inextricably interlinked with the achievement of the commitments set out in the Millennium Declaration. They are also mutually reinforcing. Against that backdrop, the following analysis of regional perspectives on the progress in their implementation and on the obstacles and constraints faced seeks to highlight the crucial links between means and goals, on the one hand, as well as the sustainability of achievements and the nexus between elimination of poverty, employment and social integration, on the other, to which globalization adds a critical dimension.

Picture of a mixed performance

37. The goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration encapsulate a synthesis of the multidimensional aspects of development which affect vast proportions of population, especially in the developing countries. Together with the global United Nations conferences and summits, they also underline the urgency for achieving rapid and sustained economic growth in the developing countries with social equity and sustainable development. Within that framework, the regional assessments and analyses carried out by the regional commissions on the development trends and implementation of goals emanating from the above events, including the Millennium Development Goals, reveal, at best, a mixed picture, mostly of significant shortfalls. They also often offer examples of sharp contrasts in achievements. The underlying message that emerges from the regional and subregional assessments and analyses is that generalization of global and regional trends obscure vast differences across and within regions, subregions and, at times, even within countries.

38. In some parts of the developing world, especially in China and East Asia, there have been real development gains and significant advancements in reducing both the number of absolute poor and the incidence of poverty. Countries of South-East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa are currently on track to meet the poverty goal. Among these countries, including the world's two most populous countries, there is a good chance of achieving the global objective of halving the proportion of people living in absolute poverty by 2015. Nonetheless, this does not imply that the Millennium Development Goal target on hunger could be met overall, as the target reduction in the number of hungry people by that date will likely remain unachieved. Indeed, if one looks beyond the broad generalization, in reality, the poverty goal and most other Millennium Development Goals are off track in most countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Half of the CIS and South-East European countries are expected to miss at least one of the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, the situation demands a significant scaling up of efforts through undertaking concrete initiatives, from the side of both recipients and donor countries, under Millennium Development Goal-driven strategy.

39. Another aspect of the development scenario is that, since the 1990s, most countries, especially in Asia and Latin America and the ECE regions, witnessed an increase in inequality in the distribution of income and wealth. Latin America continues to be the region with the worst income distribution indicators of all. While that shows substantial policy inadequacies in the social areas, it is also partly a reflection of a problem with the "quality" of economic growth. While growth facilitates the reduction of poverty, at the same time not all growth has been equally "pro-poor". Thus, in the countries witnessing a widening disparity, there is a need to bring the issues of income distribution to the core of policymaking.

40. The uneven picture is also evident in other areas. For instance, the achievement of targets relating to universal primary education remains on track in all regions. However, gender equality in primary education has been attained in the ECLAC region, but still is lagging in Africa and Asia, including West Asia. It is also notable that girls represent some 57 per cent of out-of-school children, and that in South and West Asia, they constitute more than 60 per cent. The 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action conclusively showed the uneven progress towards achieving gender equality, even though the normative environment at the national, regional and global levels indicated improvements overall.

Eradication of poverty and hunger

41. Poverty remains the greatest single development challenge in all regions. As a whole, Asia and the Pacific region is expected to meet the income poverty target of $1 a day by 2015, and may even surpass it by a significant margin. However, estimates show that the region continues to have the largest concentration of poor people, almost 700 million of them, accounting for nearly two thirds of the world's poor, with some 81 per cent living in China and India, two of the region's several star performers.

42. In Africa, progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals remains painfully slow. Despite some noteworthy, positive country and subregional achievements, especially in the North African subregion, chances remain remote for the region to achieve the poverty goal without significant intervention and accelerated support. Widespread shortfall of most Millennium Development Goals constrain the development prospects of sub-Saharan Africa, where continuing food insecurity, high child and maternal mortality, expanding slums and rise in extreme poverty remain widespread. Notable in this connection is that the number of people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa has doubled.

43. Progress in reducing extreme poverty lagged behind in the ECLAC region, resulting in the increase of the absolute number of extremely poor people by 3 million between 1990 and 2004. While six of the countries in the region have already achieved the target or are likely to do so, as many as 96 million people, or 18.6 per cent, of the region's total population still live in extreme poverty. Five countries have already met the target of reducing hunger by 50 per cent. However, 10 of 24 countries analysed saw an increase in undernourishment or could not reduce it enough to be on track to reach the target.

44. Even with reductions in poverty levels in some of its countries, the ESCWA region as a whole will not succeed in halving by 2015 the proportion of people living in absolute poverty. The situation of conflict has had its adverse effect on

some of the countries in the region. In the occupied Palestinian territories, the real GDP fell below its 1986 level.

45. South-East Europe and the CIS countries have a high share of people living in poverty, with the incidence remaining high in seven low-inco: . countries in that region. About half of them are expected to miss at least one of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to poverty, child mortality, maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS. The number of people living on less than $1 a day in those countries ranges from 12-22 per cent. Notably, economic development and social protection seem to be more poverty-reducing in the four European Union candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey) than in the remaining South-East European countries.

Sustainability of achievements

46. Of no less significance are the dimensions of sustainability of achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and of ensuring an enabling environment for medium- and long-term development. Even in several countries of Asia, the gains in achieving the poverty target made during the early 1990s have been lost owing to ineffective macroeconomic management, poor governance, and continued exclusion of women, the poor and the marginalized segments of the population in local-level delivery of health, education and sanitation services. Similar deficiencies can be observed in some of the other regions as well. The financial crises and the volatility of capital flow which had particularly affected Asia and Latin America since the 1990s, as well as the series of natural disasters, including the recent tsunami disaster, also interrupted progress and resulted in increasing poverty in the affected countries.

47. Targeted interventions with adequate internal and external support sustained over a sufficient length of time and as part of overall development strategy are essential for some countries and for the most-affected people. Many of the geographically disadvantaged countries suffer from adverse agro-climatic conditions and are susceptible to natural disasters. Pockets of extreme poverty within countries are common in all regions which include geographically inaccessible areas, remote rural communities and urban slums. At times, almost entire groups of people, such as indigenous people and ethnic minorities who suffer from social exclusion, remain entrenched in dire poverty. Women, in particular, remain vulnerable in many countries in all regions. By way of illustration, the situation of women in sub-Saharan Africa is worth noting. There, women comprise as much as 60 per cent of the informal sector and 70 per cent of agricultural labour. In West Asia and in most other regions, women also have less access to education, health and technologies than men.

48. The HIV pandemic, further aggravated by widespread and increasing prevalence of other communicable diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, undermines the economic situation in many countries of Africa and elsewhere, including the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, China and South Asia. Moreover, that prevalence poses medium- and long-term threats to the development of affected countries, as also to the very fabric of their social and economic infrastructures and human resource endorsements. According to the United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), life expectancy in nine African countries has already dropped to below 40 because of HIV/AIDS.

49. Conflict and war in the Middle East and in extensive areas of Africa have drastically undermined prospects of those countries while also diverting their scarce resources away from development. Because of regional instability and political tension, West Asia, on average, has lost 2 percentage points of growth per year since 1980. Between 1990 and 2000, there were 19 major conflicts in Africa, where per capita growth rate declined by 2.2 per cent during conflicts and by almost as much for several years following the end of hostilities.

Poverty, employment and social integration

50. Employment, which is a key to reducing poverty and strengthening social integration, is characterized by a stubborn persistence of a number of adverse factors in most regions, more particularly in Africa, West Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. After the Middle East, Africa has the second highest ratio of unemployment with an estimated rate of 10.4 per cent unemployed. Even among those employed, 45 per cent do not earn enough to provide for the basic needs of their families. In the ECLAC region, the trend towards higher levels of unemployment, currently at 10 per cent, shows no signs of abating. By end-2003, the number of jobless in Eastern Europe and in the CIS was about 18 million and 10 million, respectively. Notably, in several regions or subregions, including the Middle East and Central Asia, women's employment opportunities declined and often shifted to lower paid jobs with few or no social benefits. In most regions, jobs created over the past decade were characterized by low productivity and lack of social protection. During the 1990s, 7 out of every 10 new jobs in Latin America and the Caribbean have been in the informal sector. In all regions, women predominate in informal economy.

51. The reduction of poverty as well as working poverty are also dependent on productivity growth. An ILO study cites East Asia and South Asia, which witnessed the higher productivity growth rates over the last decade, to underscore that point. As a result, the proportion of people living on under $1 a day and the overall poverty in those subregions have been on the decline. Demographic pressure remains a serious concern for labour markets in Africa, West Asia, and the ECLAC region, as well as in Asia and the Pacific. ESCWA region has the highest ratio in the world of new entrants into the labour force per year, with young people constituting an ever greater percentage of those seeking employment. In many countries in those regions, functional literacy is too low and ill-suited to adjust to the changing patterns of the globalized labour market, which require adjustment to competition. Inappropriate education policies result in both skill mismatch and low skill supply. Extensive segments of population in many countries suffer from exclusion due to illiteracy. In the Arab countries, 27 per cent of men and a staggering 49 per cent of women are illiterate.

52. Given the situation of widespread open and disguised unemployment as well as increasing inequality in income in most regions, creation of employment opportunities should be a primary means of progressing towards more equality in terms of income distribution and the eradication of extreme poverty. As a country's income distribution is related to its productive development pattern, policies are needed to reduce social and productive heterogeneity within countries. The existence of different kinds of firms (informal, and small, medium and large), each with their own strengths and weaknesses, makes it necessary to design differentiated policies and private-public partnerships to address their problems and potential.

53. The enhancement of social equity should be the cornerstone of the public agenda and government action necessary at the national, regional and international levels. This requires significant institutional strengthening to integrate economic and social policies more explicitly and to evaluate the distributive impact of economic policies on the improvement of people's livelihoods. Stability of social spending is crucial, inasmuch as instability and fluctuations reduce the efficiency of social spending. Guaranteeing access of the poor to public services is also significant and targeting should be seen as an instrument, rather than as a substitute, for universality. A new institutional architecture to address social equity and attain social cohesion is urgently called for.

Adjusting to globalization

54. The regional analyses underscore the link and synergies among the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 8, which would strengthen the capacity of the developing countries to be more effective in coping with globalization. In most of them, especially in the poorest and most disadvantaged countries, the lack of capacity impacts directly on their poverty situation and development prospects. While the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative has delivered tangible benefits to several African and least developed countries, many others in similar situations await some relief. Even for those benefiting from the HIPC Initiative, the economic conditions on which their debt relief was based have considerably worsened, and several countries, including those few that received debt relief, have backtracked into further unsustainable debt. In Africa and elsewhere, there are "semi-HIPC" countries and middle-income countries that are burdened with unsustainable debt-servicing capacities and have resources that are far too inadequate to finance the Millennium Development Goals. ECA data indicates that 80 cents of every dollar that flowed into Africa from foreign sources for economic development flowed back out, suggesting widespread capital flight primarily fuelled by debt. The ECLAC region has suffered from decrease in ODA, capital flows and foreign direct investment levels, and that region's average debt to export ratio (over 1.5) is higher than any other developing region. In addition, sharp trade restrictions, including for intraregional trade, are hindering agricultural and manufacturing exports of developing countries on all continents. The share of intraregional trade in Africa and among the Arab countries is still merely about 10 per cent of their respective trade. The significance of export and trade promoting initiatives and their impact on Millennium Development Goals has been amply demonstrated by the Asian experience.

Key challenges

55. The experiences of China, East Asia and India have been a powerful demonstration that rapid progress can be made in tackling poverty. Moreover, experiences of countries, especially in Latin America and Asia, have shown the absolute need for safeguarding against global economic and financial volatilities, without which hard-earned gains can erode almost overnight. At the same time, high economic growth, while indispensable, is not sufficient for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives set out in the global conferences and summits of the 1990s. Medium- and long-term viability of development also needs to be ensured. That often calls for fundamental reforms in governance and macroeconomic policies at the national level, on the one hand, and the creation of a

supportive enabling environment at the regional and global levels. At the national level, a mix of macroeconomic policies that puts social and human development at the centre, together with an appropriate package of targeted policy initiatives, is required to address the issues of poverty, social integration and social cohesion. Indeed, a fiscal covenant is urgently needed to guarantee accountability, transparency and efficiency in the use of public revenues together with net increases in social programmes that include education, health care, nutrition and sound environmental management. Although the need for increasing social spending, as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), is attracting growing attention of countries in all developing regions, the ECLAC region seems to be leading by example. Between 1990-1991 and 2000-2001, virtually all the countries in that region increased their social spending in both absolute and relative terms. Region-wide, the average percentage of GDP earmarked for social spending in the ECLAC region rose from 10.1 per cent to 13.8 per cent. This trend, which is expected to continue, should involve better targeting of social spending and strengthening of social institutions. Other regions with low-income countries should follow a similar pattern.

56. Investments in infrastructure and human capital are the bedrock for increasing average productivity and for ensuring high growth over a sustained period of time. Investments in physical infrastructure such as transport, water, sanitation, power and communications, unlock growth potentials and overcome geographical handicaps in low-income countries. Poverty reduction strategies (PRSs) should integrate economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. It is also important that the dialogue around country-owned PRSs address these issues, as well as issues of gender equality, employment and workers' rights to help to achieve the necessary growth while ensuring that development will accrue lasting benefits.

57. In a situation of growing interdependence, national policies and actions must be complemented and supported by a favourable international environment. Many developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries, are highly in need of ODA to support their development. Likewise, early and successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, with improved access to developed country markets, ambitious trade liberalization for agricultural goods and especially for commodities, as well as WTO-compliant regional trading arrangements, are urgently needed. In essence, there is an imperative need to design national, regional and global policies in a coherent setting for positioning developing countries advantageously for sustained development in an increasingly globalizing world.

Value added of regional approaches

58. With growing global economic interdependence, regional cooperation offers countries an effective vehicle for facing the common development challenges and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It is essential to build regional public goods in a wider context of global-regional-national partnerships. South-South cooperation, in particular, enables developing countries to share experiences and make use of their own resources and technology more efficiently for sustainable development. It also helps to shield them from shocks and volatilities in the global economic and financial environment. While country-level ownership of the Millennium Development Goals is key, regional approaches can reinforce good practices at the country level and promote them on a wider scale across the region.

Regional cooperation can energize partnership between countries and regional and multilateral organizations, as well as civil society and the private sector. Indeed, synergies between national, regional and global efforts are essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and for the realization of objectives set out in the global conferences and summits of the 1990s.

59. In addition to global agreements on aid, debt and trade issues, regional and subregional trade and investment offer significant opportunities to regional and subregional integration processes and cooperation initiatives. They can also lead to regional transport and ICT infrastructures and networks. Likewise, regional and subregional health and environment policies in a transboundary context play an important role in preventing health diseases and in safeguarding growth with environmental sustainability. The growing demand for natural resources puts a premium on promoting regional cooperation policies. Strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation should accordingly, remain a critical component for realization of the objectives contained in the Millennium Declaration and for effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

V. Effective linkages among the regional commissions and between the commissions and other partners

A. Mainstreaming the activities of the regional commissions at the global level

60. The Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions participated actively in all the meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. In addition to exchanges of information and views on the preparation for the September 2005 Summit and flagship publications, the Committee gave particular attention to the preparation of the 2006-2007 programme budget. The regional commissions participated actively in the 11 thematic clusters of the Committee that were established for the planning and coordination of activities included in the proposed programme budget.

61. In paragraph 76 of its resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, the General Assembly, inter alia, called upon the organizations of the United Nations development system, its regional commissions and other regional and subregional entities to intensify their cooperation and adopt more collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives at the request of recipient countries, in particular through closer collaboration within the resident coordinator system and by improving mechanisms for access to the technical capacities of the United Nations system at the regional and subregional levels. In the resolution the Assembly further stressed the importance of utilization of the analytical and normative capacities of the regional commissions and such organizations not represented at the country level for the CCA process.

62. The involvement of the regional commissions with the CCA and UNDAF processes, currently varies from region to region, and is generally spotty though growing for most regions. In the light of the growing decentralization by organizations of the United Nations system to the regional level, there is a greater need for improved and systematic coordination with the regional commissions.

Their analytical capacities and the comparative advantage they have operationally in addressing cross-border issues and promoting relevant initiatives, such as shared transport and energy infrastructure, transboundary waters, cross-border and regional trade, and facilitation and harmonization of norms and standards, should be utilized more fully for the CCA and UNDAF processes. Moreover, their well-established relationship with regional and subregional organizations outside the United Nations system, including integration groupings should also prove very useful. As indicated in section I of the report, the Executive Secretaries are exploring with the executive heads of UNDP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs further ways for coordinating the United Nations technical cooperation activities at the interregional, regional and country levels.

63. In consultations with the regional commissions and UNDP, the UNDG result-oriented priorities for 2005 have identified several specific proposals to address the issues raised in the above-mentioned resolution. These include: (a) strategy and training programmes to enable United Nations country teams to effectively address substantive and economic development issues in the UNDAF; and (b) promoting country-level capacity to support increased involvement of non-resident agencies and entities of the United Nations, including the regional commissions in CCA/UNDAF and poverty reduction strategy papers.

B. Partnership at the regional level

1. Partnership within the United Nations system: regional coordination meetings

64. In its resolution 1998/46, annex III, the Economic and Social Council had mandated regional coordination meetings under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General or under the aegis of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a strategic and coherent response by the United Nations system to priority issues to the respective regions within the overall United Nations development agenda. During the period under review, such meetings were held as follows: ECE on 28 January 2005; ESCAP on 25 May and September 2004 as well as on 27 January 2005; ECLAC on 6-7 October 2004; ECA on 9-10 July 2004; and ESCWA on 23 June 2004. Since the inception of these meetings, the regional commissions consulted with partner organizations on their agendas and continued to organize them within existing resources and in a flexible manner.

65. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals received special attention at the recent meetings. The Millennium Declaration has sparked renewed reflection and recognition that with the interlinkages of its goals and targets, the United Nations system, with its multisectoral character, needs to undertake a conscious, collective and coordinated response at the regional level. In this regard, the inter-agency efforts led by ESCAP and ECLAC during the period under review should be highlighted. Factors underlying the differences and commonalities at the regional and subregional levels need to be recognized and regional policies need to be developed accordingly. Regional coordination meetings could serve as forums for exploring further collaboration in technical cooperation projects, conducting joint meetings with development partners, exchanging information on planned regional flagship reports and documents as well as sharing knowledge management experiences and disseminating information. For example, some of the commissions,

such as ECLAC and ESCWA, have designed websites for the purpose of disseminating information on the regional activities of the United Nations system in given areas.

66. With respect to operational activities, the United Nations organizations and agencies are highly diversified, and the challenge for the regional coordination meetings, since their inception, has been how to sustain the effort to bring the different capacities and comparative advantages of the various organizations, who respond to diverse mandates, to respond jointly and effectively to priority areas of the respective regions. There are indeed ongoing joint operational activities at the regional level. However, the results of these regional coordination meetings indicate that effectiveness of the United Nations system's response would certainly increase if policies and activities were better coordinated. For example, ECA undertook an assessment in 2004 of the regional consultations it organizes with sister agencies and in close cooperation with the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities in support for NEPAD. It was evident from this assessment that while much progress, although uneven, has been achieved since the establishment of the thematic clusters under the regional consultation meeting, much more needs to be done to build on the collaborative potentials of the United Nations agencies working at the regional level. Beyond serving as a forum for sharing information and identifying issues of common concern, these meetings have not fully realized their objective as an instrument for joint response and strategic coordination. According to the ECA assessment, where real progress has been achieved, it was in areas where a small number of agencies pooled their resources around selected joint projects/programmes that respond to the needs of NEPAD and not to individual programmes of work. The assessment recommended that thematic clusters reconsider their collaborative arrangements, plan together on the basis of comparative advantages and perhaps implement the joint activities separately. The findings of the ECA assessment could easily provide guidance to the coordination meetings organized by the other regional commissions.

2. Partnership with regional organizations

67. Since their inception, the regional commissions have also played a catalytic role in the institution building in their respective regions. The mandates given by the global United Nations conferences and the summits to the regional commissions have also provided additional focus to the initiatives by the commissions to forge and strengthen cooperation with partner organizations not in the United Nations system at the regional and subregional levels. Arrangements for cooperation between them and their partners have often been institutionalized. For example, ECE plays a leading role in the review of implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, as set forth in the memorandum of understanding signed between the two organizations in December 2004. Clearly, regional cooperation is increasing through regional networks and partnerships involving a growing number of diverse regional organizations. The regional commissions, owing to their region-wide membership and forums as well as multisectoral areas of concern, would need to further coordinate with their partner organizations to build synergies for achieving a coherent regional development agenda that is compatible with the international development agenda and the achievement of the goals of the Millennium Declaration for development, security and human rights. The regional development agenda would be based on the

recognition that development concerns such as chronic hunger and poverty, disease, mass unemployment and marginalization should be addressed in order not to endanger peace and security at the regional and international levels. ESCAP organizes annual consultative meetings between the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and heads of subregional organizations in the region, which since the mid-1990s have served as a platform for exchange of experiences as well as for promotion of intraregional cooperation. This is an effective arrangement that could be replicated by the other regional commissions.

C. Cooperation among the regional commissions

68. The Economic and Social Council in resolution 1998/46, annex III, inter alia, encouraged greater interregional cooperation through the involvement of the regional commissions, both collectively and in partnership. In addition to their ongoing cooperation in specific areas, such as gender equality, transport, ICT, trade facilitation, statistics, water management in the Mediterranean and programme planning (see E/2003/15 and E/2004/15), the regional commissions have been increasingly utilizing the resources available under the United Nations Development Account to implement specific joint projects, which focus on capacity-building of developing countries and economies in transition in such areas as trade, sustainable development and South/South cooperation in support of the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

Ten-year review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

69. The Commission on the Status of Women had requested the regional commissions to play a significant role in the Beijing+10 review process to enable incorporation of the regional perspectives in that process. In this context, cooperation among the commissions continued to be strengthened, inter alia, through their participation in the Task Force on Tools and Indicators coordinated by ECLAC as part of the activities of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality. Collaboration among the commissions as Task Force members has strengthened links between producers of statistics and users of statistics at the global, regional and country level, including Governments, United Nations statistical offices, relevant non-governmental organizations and others. In addition, a proposed Development Account joint project on interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goal process aims to develop region-specific targets and indicators and to provide technical assistance to develop or strengthen regional institutions as Millennium Development Goals knowledge hubs. The computer databases that will be developed in each of the regional institutions will be electronically linked with the five commissions as well as with other participating institutions.

World Summit on the Information Society

70. The regional commissions have been participating actively in the World Summit on the Information Society process beginning with the Geneva Summit (December 2003), and leading up to the Tunis Summit, to be held from 16-18 November 2005. They have exchanged information and views on best practices and the outcome of the regional preparatory meetings and related activities. Jointly, they will organize, in conjunction with the Tunis Summit, two High-Level Round Tables and update a brochure entitled "Information Society —

Regional Dimensions". They are also planning to undertake a joint interregional Development Account project on knowledge networks for disadvantaged communities through ICT access points. The project will build a network of knowledge stations serving disadvantaged communities and contributing to bridging the digital divide. Together with Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the commissions are currently implementing a Development Account project on capacity-building in ICT policies. It aims at promoting more informed, broad-based and effective participation of policymakers, private sector and civil society actors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in support of the regional and international ICT agendas.

ECE/ESCAP strategy for Central Asia and the future orientation of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

71. Jointly ECE and ESCAP have developed a new strategic approach to Central Asia and for revitalization of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia for the benefit of countries in the subregion that enjoy membership in both regional commissions. This strategic approach is timely in view of the ongoing stabilization process in that subregion, which is opening up new opportunities for the Central Asian States in such areas as transport, trade, energy and water management, and paving the way for new prospects for cooperation with other potential partners, such as Afghanistan. Among the main objectives of that approach are: (a) supporting the policies of Governments for promoting economic reform, stabilization and an enabling environment; (b) securing political commitments to implement existing agreements; (c) aligning United Nations technical assistance programmes which are currently oriented to specific sectors or individual countries with the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia focus on subregional and regional cooperation, which builds cross-sectoral and multidimensional approaches; (d) strengthening the ECE and ESCAP technical assistance within the framework of implementing the goals and objectives of the global United Nations conferences and summits a well as the Millennium Declaration; (e) improving coordination with partner organizations and institutions within and outside the United Nations family; and (f) providing the donor community with a clear and comprehensive vision of the long-term strategic objectives of technical assistance programmes and projects of the two United Nations regional commissions in the subregion in order to strengthen donor support for ongoing and planned activities.

72. The new strategic approach, which has been elaborated into a joint ECE/ESCAP work plan for the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia for the period of 2005-2007, will be considered by the International Conference on Strengthening Subregional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (Astana, Kazakhstan, 25-27 May 2005), and will be submitted for subsequent approval at the meeting of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Regional Advisory Committee (Astana, 27 May). While individual projects and activities included in the work plan may be administered separately and funded from different sources, their implementation will be carried out with a view to achieving the maximum degree of synergy and complementarity, while also advancing implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked and Transit Countries.

73. The two regional commissions have also proposed two specific projects under the fifth tranche of the Development Account aimed at: (a) strengthening the

statistical capacity in Central Asia to support indicators for the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; and (b) capacity-building for integrated trade information management and trade facilitation in Central Asia.

Programme planning

74. The second meeting of the Chiefs of Programme Planning, hosted by ECLAC in Santiago, Chile, from 22-24 September 2004, included the participation of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, provided greater clarity to the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, within the context of a preparation of a results-based programme budget for the 2006-2007 biennium. Among the important decisions taken were: an agreement on a results-oriented format for the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation section under the proposed programme budget for the period 2006-2007; the regional commissions to seek actively increased coordination of regional advisory services with the CCA and UNDAF processes at the country level in their respective regions; and the regional commissions to explore new areas for interregional cooperation.

75. The Executive Secretaries at their meeting in February 2005 agreed to formalize the meeting of the Programme Chiefs as a subsidiary structure to their own joint meetings and to report to them through the Regional Commissions New York Office.

Notes

[1] The Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions held four meetings during the period under review: in Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, on 18 June 2004; in New York on 14 and 17 July 2004; in New York from 20-22 October; and again on 11 and 17 February 2005. These meetings were held in connection with their participation in UNCTAD XI in São Paolo, the Economic and Social Council substantive session of 2004, dialogue with the Second Committee of the General Assembly on progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly, the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development on the 10-year review of the Copenhagen Summit Senior Management Group and meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

[2] ECLAC released the *Meeting the Millennium Poverty Reduction Targets in Latin America and the Caribbean* report in December 2002 and is currently leading an inter-agency initiative for a Millennium Development Goal review to be issued in May 2005. ESCAP issued its first regional Millennium Development Goal report entitled *Promoting the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* in May 2003 and will be issuing the second regional report, prepared in cooperation with UNDP and African Development Bank, in August 2005. The regional Millennium Development Goal reports of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are scheduled to be released by mid-2005.

[3] ECLAC and ESCWA hold biennial sessions. ESCWA holds its sessions on odd years, while ECLAC holds its sessions on even years.

[4] Related conclusions and proposals of ECLAC analysis were reflected in its flagship publications *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* (August 2004) and *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* (December 2004).

[5] See related analysis in ECLAC's flagship reports on foreign investment in Latin America and the Caribbean (March 2005) and on Latin America and the Caribbean in the world economy (to be published in late 2005).

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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the sessions of the regional commissions in the first half of 2005, when four of the five regional commissions held their regular sessions: the Economic Commission for Europe held its sixtieth session in Geneva from 22 to 25 February 2005; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-first session in Bangkok from 12 to 18 May 2005; the Economic Commission for Africa held the thirty-eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Abuja from 11 to 15 May 2005; and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its twenty-third Ministerial session in Damascus from 9 to 12 May 2005. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which holds its session biennially during even years, held the twenty-third session of the Committee of the Whole on 16 February 2005 in New York and adopted one resolution, which is transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration.

* E/2005/100.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Council

1. At its sixty-first session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) approved the following draft resolutions and draft decision for adoption by the Council.

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Draft resolution I
Mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 on the pattern of conferences, in which the Assembly decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Recalling also Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 6 thereof on a mid-term review to be conducted during the sixty-first session,

Recalling also Commission resolution 60/6 of 28 April 2004 on revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, and in particular paragraphs 1 and 2 thereof regarding the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the establishment of an Advisory Council for the Centre,

Recalling further Commission resolution 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, by which it revised the statute of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific and changed the name of the Centre,

Taking into account Commission resolutions 61/2 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 61/3 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, and 61/4 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, in which it revised the statutes of the respective regional institutions, as well as its resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005 on the

establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development as a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (all of the above-mentioned institutions being collectively referred to hereunder as "the regional institutions"),

Recognizing that a complete meeting cycle of the thirteen subsidiary bodies of the Commission was concluded at the end of 2004, which makes it possible at the current session of the Commission to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the new conference structure established in accordance with Commission resolution 58/1, while bearing in mind that the new conference structure came into effect only in 2003,

Recognizing also the need for the reporting process under the conference structure to be more streamlined so that the Commission can take timely action on the reports of its subsidiary bodies,

Taking note of the evaluations and recommendations of members and associate members concerning the outcomes of sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies held under the new conference structure, which provide a useful basis for the mid-term review,

Reiterating its support for keeping the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific focused on three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

Aware of the need for the conference structure to be kept in line with the process of overall reform of the United Nations,

1. *Notes with appreciation* that, since the adoption of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/1 on 22 May 2002, a new conference structure has been established in accordance with the pattern set out in paragraph 1 of that resolution;

2. *Commends* the Executive Secretary of the Commission for his efforts to prepare and organize the conferences and meetings under the new structure in an effective and efficient way and to make them correspond more fully to the three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues;

3. *Also commends* the Executive Secretary for having completed the reorganization of the secretariat as requested in paragraph 2 of Commission resolution 58/1;

4. *Decides* that, as a result of the mid-term review of the functioning of the conference structure, the following points should override or be integrated into the present pattern of its conference structure, as prescribed in paragraph 1 of Commission resolution 58/1 and, where relevant, the respective terms of reference annexed to the resolution:

(a) Subsidiary structure

The thematic committees shall be retained to keep the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific focused on three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. The work of the subcommittees shall be subsumed under the respective

thematic committees beginning in 2006, as a means of strengthening their integration within their respective thematic contexts;

To ensure that the key sectoral issues formerly dealt with by the subcommittees can be addressed more effectively within a thematic framework, the format of the sessions of the thematic committees shall include segments as follows:

(i) Committee on Poverty Reduction: Poverty reduction practices and statistics;

(ii) Committee on Managing Globalization:

Part I: International trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism;

Part II: Information, communication and space technology, and environment and sustainable development;

(iii) Committee on Emerging Social Issues: Socially vulnerable groups, and health and development;

To ensure timely review of emerging issues as well as reporting to the Commission, the thematic committees, including parts I and II of the Committee on Managing Globalization, shall meet separately and annually after the session of the Commission for a maximum duration of five days for each session, with the duration depending on the agenda of the committee in question;

The segments under three of the above committees shall be convened either consecutively or simultaneously. The segments under one of the above committees shall be convened consecutively. The secretariat will provide interpretation services in the working languages of the Commission;

(b) Special bodies

The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall hold its sessions prior to the sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. The maximum duration of the sessions of each of the special bodies will be two days;

The Advisory Council of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, comprising representatives of the Governments of Pacific island developing countries and territories, and also of Australia and New Zealand, shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of one day at the venue of the relevant session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to provide advice on the Centre's work programme priorities;

(c) Regional institutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The regional institutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall continue to function under the terms of reference stipulated in the relevant resolutions, namely, 60/5, 61/2, 61/3, 61/4 and 61/6;

The programmes of work of the regional institutions shall be aligned with the thematic priorities of the Commission under the strategic framework;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the thematic sessions of the committees are conducted in a results-oriented manner that yields concrete

outcomes aimed at strengthening the focus and impact of the work of the Commission;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Commission resolution 58/1, to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve in particular as the basis for the comprehensive review to be conducted during the sixty-third session concerning the functioning of the conference structure;

7. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, and to consider the possibility of further revising its structure at its sixty-third session.

Draft resolution II
Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995 on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also the host country agreement signed between the Government of Japan and the United Nations on 14 April 1995,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial and in kind resources that have been provided to the Institute, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan,

Taking into account the recommendations in the evaluation of the Institute carried out in 2003 and the need to integrate the work of the Institute into the programme of work of the Commission,

Taking note of the report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to the Commission at the current session,

Approves the revised statute as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Establishment

1. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute"), established in May 1970 as the Asian Statistical Institute, and accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission") pursuant to Commission resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995, shall continue in existence under the terms of the present statute.

2. Participation in the training and other activities of the Institute is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.

3. The Institute has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Institute are to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and economies in transition of the region to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.

Functions

5. The Institute shall achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Training of official statisticians, utilizing existing centres and institutions for training available in member States;

(b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;

(c) Dissemination of information.

Status and organization

6. The Institute shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff. The Commission shall keep separate accounts for the Institute.

7. The Institute is located in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan.

8. The activities of the Institute shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Institute shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative designated by the Government of Japan and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of five years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Institute shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the

Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene special sessions at the request of a majority of the Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. The nine representatives constituting the Council under paragraph 9 of the present statute shall have one vote each. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

17. The Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term workplans consistent with the programme of work.

Director and staff

18. The Institute shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post. The Director and Professional staff shall be appointed for a total term, in principle, not exceeding five years. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Institute.

19. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Institute, the preparation of annual and long-term workplans and the implementation of the programme of work.

Resources of the Institute

20. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Institute, as referred to in paragraph 6, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Institute, subject to paragraph 21 of the present statute.

21. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other entities should also be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Institute.

22. The financial resources of the Institute shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

23. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by means of a resolution of the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

24. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

25. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Draft resolution III
Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery,

Recalling also the agreement between the Government of China and the United Nations regarding the headquarters of the Centre, signed on 19 November 2003,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources and facilities that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of China,

1. *Approves* the revised statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed programme budget of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle

that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

Annex

Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, established on 22 May 2002 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of the same date, shall continue in existence under the title "United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery" (hereinafter referred to as "UNAPCAEM" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present statute.

2. The membership of the Centre shall be identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as other interested States Members of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of commercially successful machinery and technology, and to promote research and development and extension of agricultural engineering including machinery and rural industry for poverty reduction in the region.

Functions

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering, mechanization, automation, biotechnology and genetic engineering;

(b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;

(c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;

(d) Regional cooperation in technology transfer through networking of focal point national institutes in the Centre member countries and other relevant institutions;

(e) Setting up an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Promotion of the technology transfer process from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction;

(g) Dissemination and exchange of commercially successful machinery and drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Training workshops and advisory services on food safety standards and sanitary and phytosanitary issues under the World Trade Organization agricultural trade mandate;

(i) Tapping the resources of developed countries in building the capacity of member countries.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director, a Deputy Director subject to availability of funds, other staff and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

8. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director, a Deputy Director subject to availability of funds, and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members and associate members of ESCAP will be invited to propose candidates for the Technical Committee. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary. The Director may also invite governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to propose experts who would best contribute to Technical Committee discussions on a specific topic.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the operations of the Centre.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, with the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations

shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission. Members and associate members elected to the Governing Board of the Centre at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission will serve as members of the Governing Council of the Centre until the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006.

Draft resolution IV
Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 243 (XLI) of 29 March 1985 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology,

Recalling also the agreement regarding the headquarters of the Centre signed between the Government of India and the United Nations on 11 April 1994,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources and facilities that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of India,

1. *Approves* the revised statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on

Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and recognizing also the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

Annex

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre" or "APCTT"), established on 16 July 1977 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 159 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 and 164 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976, shall continue in existence under the terms of the present statute.

2. The membership of the Centre is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP through strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national innovation systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; improve the terms of transfer of technology; and identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region.

Functions

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;

(b) Advisory services;

(c) Dissemination of information and good practices;

(d) Networking and partnership with international organizations and key stakeholders;

(e) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff, and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in New Delhi.

8. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the

Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative designated by the Government of India and no fewer than eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Draft resolution V
Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 and 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan and the facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia,

1. *Approves* the revised statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, and which include revised functions that strengthen the role of the Centre in coordinating research and analysis on secondary crops;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

Annex

Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Establishment

1. The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "CGPRT Centre"), established in April 1981 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and its statute adopted by Commission resolution 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982, shall continue in existence under the title Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "CAPSA" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present statute.

2. The membership of CAPSA is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

4. The objective of CAPSA is to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crops agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asian and Pacific region.

Functions

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Coordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops;

(b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;

(c) Research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations;

(d) Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction;

(e) Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures;

(f) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts;

(g) Advisory services.

Status and organization

6. CAPSA shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff, and a Technical Committee.

7. CAPSA is located in Bogor, Indonesia.

8. The activities of CAPSA shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. CAPSA shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative nominated by the Government of Indonesia and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the

Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. CAPSA shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. CAPSA shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the operations of CAPSA.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Director's observations with respect thereto, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be urged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for the activities of CAPSA.

26. The financial resources of CAPSA shall be administered in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present Statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 16 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission. Members and associate members elected to the Governing Board of the former CGPRT Centre at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission will serve as members of the Governing Council of CAPSA until the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006.

Draft resolution VI
Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the particularly rapid development in information and communication technology and its applications, and their implications for economic and social development, which have posed unprecedented challenges for developing countries in need of efficient, informed and timely access to information, information services, tools, best practices and other information and communication technology-related resources,

Expressing grave concern about the prevailing digital divide between countries and within countries and communities, and its implications for development and the persistence of poverty,

Acknowledging the importance of information and communication technology for development and for building inclusive knowledge societies, as well as the role of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which called for capacity-building with an emphasis on creating a critical mass of qualified and skilled information and communication technology professionals and experts, the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

Recalling also the Tokyo Declaration adopted on 15 January 2003 by Governments of the Asian and Pacific region as the region's input to the World Summit, which identified information and communication technology development, capacity-building and fostering of partnerships as priority areas for action in advancing the region's information society,

Further recalling Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development, and recalling General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved, inter alia, to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, were available to all, and 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/295 of 20 December 2002 on information and communication technologies for development and 56/189 of 21 December 2001 on human resources development, in which the Assembly made several references to information technologies,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling its resolution 2002/2 of 19 July 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the establishment of a subcommittee on information, communications and space technology,

Noting with satisfaction the outstanding success achieved by a number of countries in the region in the long-term development of their information and communication technology sectors and in harnessing new technologies for their national development,

Noting also with satisfaction the work of such international organizations as the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Acknowledging, in particular, the important work of the Telecommunity in facilitating capacity-building in information and communication technologies based on demand by its member States,

Recognizing the advantages of regional resource centres on information and communication technology development issues in Asia and the Pacific that may optimize the sharing of expertise on information and communication technology in the region and further improve the effectiveness of regional capacity-building activities and the sharing of tools and processes,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to host the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and to bear its institutional and operational costs,

Cognizant of the need to avoid any possible duplication between the work of the Centre and the human resources development work of the Telecommunity and other concerned international organizations,

1. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, which will contribute to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific programme of work in the area of training in information and communication technology as decided by the Commission in its resolution 61/6;

2. *Approves* the statute of the Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the field concerned, to provide support to the Centre and cooperate in the implementation of its work programme;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to establish mechanisms for close coordination between the Centre and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in its human resources development work programme, and to avoid possible duplication with the Telecommunity in the formulation of the Centre's workplans;

6. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in monitoring and evaluating the work of the Centre in order to ensure that its activities do not duplicate those of other institutions and agencies in the region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually to the Commission on the progress made by the Centre in (a) capacity-building to bridge the digital divide, (b) creating a sustainable institutional framework for the training of trainers in the field of information and communication technology and (c) enhancing regional cooperation in human resources development in that field;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report in 2008 on the performance of the Centre, in particular regarding the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other relevant international organizations,

which would serve as the basis for a mid-term review by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a comprehensive report on the Centre's work based on the findings of the mid-term review, including an assessment of its financial sustainability and the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other concerned international organizations, which would serve as the basis for a comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in 2010;

10. *Decides* to assess the performance of the Centre, on the basis of the findings of the comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, and to determine whether to proceed with the operation of the Centre thereafter.

Annex

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

Establishment

1. An Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (hereinafter referred to as "APCICT") is established, with a membership identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

2. APCICT shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

3. The objective of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for the purposes of socio-economic development.

Functions

4. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 3, APCICT shall have such functions as:

(a) Enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT for policy makers and ICT professionals;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of ICT trainers and ICT training institutions by providing for training-of-trainers programmes and exchanges of trainers and experts;

(c) Providing advisory services on human resources development programmes to members and associate members;

(d) Undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT, including identifying training needs and sharing best practices on human resources development programmes and training methods.

Status and organization

5. APCICT shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff.

6. APCICT shall be located in the Republic of Korea.

7. The activities of APCICT shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. APCICT shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

8. APCICT shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative nominated by the Government of the Republic of Korea and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The Council shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council. An interim Council shall be elected by ESCAP and constituted upon the adoption of the present statute. The Council shall be reconfirmed at the sixty-second session of the Commission.

9. The Director of APCICT shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

10. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

11. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

12. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

13. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

14. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

15. The Council shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the work programme. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

16. APCICT shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

17. The Director shall be appointed for one year and be eligible for reappointment. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work.

Resources of the Centre

18. The operation of APCICT shall not involve additional regular budget resources of ESCAP. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution, on a voluntary basis, to the operations of APCICT. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

19. APCICT will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

20. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of APCICT.

21. The financial resources of APCICT shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

22. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

23. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 11 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

24. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Draft decision
Venue of the sixty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the recommendation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to accept the invitation of the Government of Indonesia to host the sixty-second session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for its generous offer to host the sixty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Approves* the holding of the sixty-second session of the Commission in Indonesia in 2006.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft resolution
Admission of the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was set up by Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February 1948, which states that membership of the Commission shall be open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission was set up on the basis of the participation of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and those which have had special relations of a historical, cultural, geographical or economic nature with the region,

Recalling that, in this spirit, the Commission subsequently admitted Spain in 1979, Portugal in 1984 and Italy in 1990,

Considering that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, its desire to be admitted to membership of the Commission,[1]

Taking into account the continuous historical, cultural and economic links that have existed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Latin American and Caribbean countries throughout the history of the region and the important and growing contributions which German cooperation agencies have been making through the Commission to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Approves* the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of the Commission and to this effect authorizes the amendment of paragraph 3 (a) of the terms of reference of the Commission by the insertion of the words "the Federal Republic of Germany", between the words "and to" and the word "France".

[1] See note by the secretariat LC/L.2254 (PLEN.23/3).

C. Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia

Draft resolution I
Damascus Declaration on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which was adopted by Heads of State and Government by General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

Recognizing the importance of realizing the major challenge currently facing the region, which lies in making globalization a positive force that will work in the interests of the peoples of the region by creating a shared future where the focus is on the highest and most equitable humanitarian principles,

Recognizing also that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region is a national responsibility, both with respect to identifying national development goals and targets and to adopting the general policies necessary to ensure that those goals and targets are achieved by 2015,

Stressing the need for the developed countries to honour their commitments towards developing countries, which represents the second part of the development partnership equation, and further affirming the relationship between the liberalization of international trade, opportunities for developing countries to gain access to global markets, and Millennium Development Goals, while emphasizing the importance of coordination between developing countries,

Affirming the importance of intensifying cooperation between the countries of the region in order to realize the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Commending the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia in that regard, including the report on progress made submitted at the twenty-third session of the Commission,

1. *Affirms* the importance of increasing economic growth and linking that growth to the formulation of strategies for the eradication of poverty and unemployment and the achievement of social integration, with a view to realizing the Millennium Development Goals, including by adopting the general policies necessary in respect of labour, social security, the improvement of living conditions, particularly for vulnerable persons, the eradication of corruption and the strengthening of accountability;

2. *Urges* member countries to coordinate at the regional level and work together in order to formulate coordinated and unified Arab positions in advance of the meeting that will be held in New York in September 2005, five years after the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and to update Millennium Development Goal monitoring and follow-up systems;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations institutions that are working in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region to coordinate and work together in order to meet regional needs and to focus, in the meetings of the regional coordination group organized by the Commission, on the progress of the region towards the realization of those goals;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia to provide support to member countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, including by building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress made in this regard to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Economic Commission for Africa

Summary of the Abuja Ministerial Statement

1. The thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 14 and 15 May 2005, concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Statement.

2. The Ministerial Statement recognized that strong political will, as well as bold and decisive action, was needed to establish the conditions for achieving sustained economic growth and eradicating poverty, as well as promoting sustainable development in Africa. The Ministers reaffirmed the vital importance and urgency of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa as a framework for reducing poverty and advancing development in the continent. While noting the progress achieved in some parts of the continent in that regard, they concluded that the broad picture was not satisfactory on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They therefore agreed to prepare an African Common Position to review the Goals, setting out some key actions that they must take as policy makers to achieve the Goals in Africa, as well as to highlight critical actions that the international community must take to enable Africa to meet those objectives.

The fruits of growth must be increased and shared

3. The Ministers assessed that progress towards significantly reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals had been hampered by insufficient economic growth, and because the benefits of the growth achieved were not, for the most part, shared broadly across society. Going forward, it would be important to expand growth in sectors that would generate greater employment, and to invest more intensively in sectors such as health and education that build human capacity to engage in productive economic activity. Other factors limiting growth and the spread of its fruits included weak governance, lack of transparency and corruption, the impact of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases, gender inequality, violent conflicts and inadequate capacity, as well as insufficient public investment and internal and external resource mobilization. They therefore resolved to develop holistic and comprehensive strategies to address those many challenges simultaneously. They also committed themselves to developing strategies for generating decent and productive work for men and women as well as youth in Africa, and to explicitly address employment-generation issues in national poverty reduction strategies.

Towards local ownership and more effective national poverty reduction and growth strategies

4. While acknowledging the progress achieved in recent years in the Poverty Reduction Strategy process, the Ministers agreed that more work was needed to deepen national ownership and leadership and that the Millennium Development Goals must be integrated as key objectives in the Poverty Reduction Strategy process. Moreover, PRS must have broader and longer-term perspectives and a deepening of ownership through meaningful stakeholder consultation, addressing gender equality, population growth, capacity and regional issues, including migration and other regional public goods policies. Country-specific realities also needed to be addressed, with particular attention to the special needs of the least developed countries, and post-conflict and other fragile economies. In that regard, they noted that much had been learned through the African Learning Group on PRSs organized by ECA.

Greater focus needed on trade, infrastructure and agriculture

5. The Ministers highlighted the vital role of trade as an engine of growth, which required expanded markets and much better access to the international as well as continental markets. They therefore underscored the importance for the continent of a fair, non-discriminatory, predictable, multilateral rules-based trading system as well as the need for significant improvement in market access, particularly in agriculture and in other export areas of interest to African countries. Within Africa, regional initiatives were needed to open up and encourage trade in goods and services among member States. They called for the elimination of trade-distorting domestic support and export subsidies that had harmful implications for African commodity exports. They also called upon World Trade Organization (WTO) members to work to ensure a successful sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December, and to set the stage for the early conclusion of the Doha Trade Round in 2006.

6. In relation to general regional public goods such as research and extension for agriculture or addressing maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases, regional approaches were needed. Inasmuch as the regional economic communities were critical to collective action, rationalizing them, harmonizing their work and enabling them to better implement programmes at the subregional level would greatly enhance efforts towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

7. Given the critical importance of agriculture to development, poverty reduction, and food security in Africa, they agreed that the sector deserved special attention and that investment in integrated water and agriculture development must urgently be scaled up and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme supported and applied. Recognizing the role of the private sector as the primary engine of growth, the Ministers resolved to work to create the necessary enabling environment including the provision of peace and security, quality public institutions that promote efficiency, improvements in physical infrastructure, protection of the environment and natural resources.

Financing a "big push" for Africa

8. The Ministers endorsed the call made by the Secretary-General in his report "In larger freedom: towards development security and human rights for all"

(A/59/2005) that developing countries must draw up, by 2006, practical national strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals, assess the financial requirements and commit themselves to making the necessary public investments. They also agreed that Africa must work harder to mobilize the domestic resources to meet the Goals. They recognized, however, that Africa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals must be accelerated now through a significant increase in resources from outside. In that connection, they acknowledged the call in ECA's report for "a big push" in financial support for Africa from the international community in line with the global commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular, the Commission's proposal for a major fund to develop African infrastructure. They warmly welcomed ECA's call to double official development assistance (ODA) to Africa and also proposed the creation of an international financing facility to provide front-loading of aid flows for enhancing predictability and planning. Further, they called on the G-8 leaders to commit during the Gleneagles summit in July to meeting their existing ODA promises, as well as to helping to accelerate progress by concretely contributing to Africa's Millennium Development Goal financing needs in line with the recommendations in the reports. They also reiterated the repeated emphasis in previous meetings for international action to ensure a sustainable exit from Africa's onerous debt burden. In line with ECA's recommendation that debt relief cover multilateral and bilateral debt, as well as low-income countries that are not part of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and reduce debt stock and debt service by up to 100 per cent.

Improving aid management and mutual accountability

9. The Ministers reviewed the report entitled, "The mutual review of development effectiveness in the context of NEPAD", which was commissioned by NEPAD and prepared by ECA together with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee. They reaffirmed that future editions of the report should appear every two years, but noted that more frequent updates or progress or reviews on specific issues in response to specific requirements might be needed. They proposed that, in future, the findings of the African Peer Review Mechanism country studies should provide a foundation for the monitoring of performance on the African side. They noted particularly the strong interest as evidenced by Governments of African countries in acceding to the African Peer Review Mechanism. On the partner side, through the Monterrey Consensus, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and other initiatives, development partners had committed to intensifying efforts for enhanced ODA in terms of quality and quantity, harmonization with national development strategies, composition, allocation and predictability. They urged them to meet those commitments.

Fostering greater institutional coherence and effectiveness

10. They recognized that ECA continued to play a key role in promoting the economic and social development of the continent. Now that the African Union had clearly articulated a strategic programme and played its pivotal role in providing political leadership at the regional level, they looked forward to enhanced collaboration between ECA and the AU.